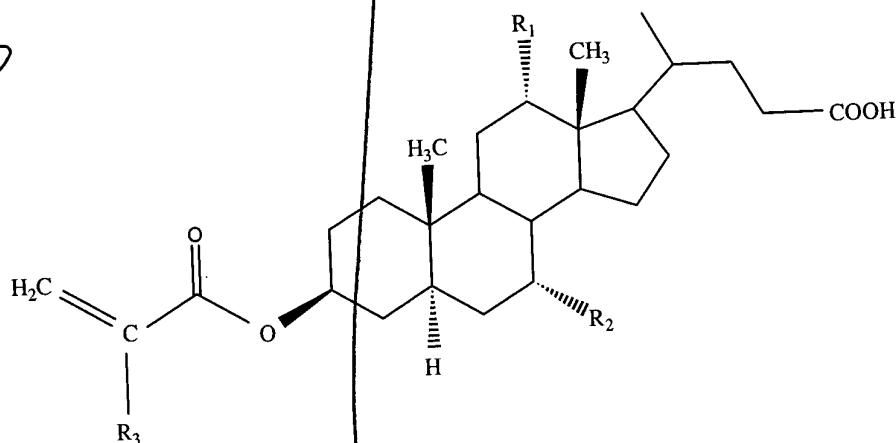


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend pending claims 1-9 as follows:

--1. (amended) A polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin represented by the following formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  and  $\text{R}_2$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group; and  $\text{R}_3$  represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

2. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}_1$  represents a hydroxyl group,  $\text{R}_2$  represents a hydrogen atom, and  $\text{R}_3$  represents a methyl group.

3. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}_1$  represents a hydroxyl group,  $\text{R}_2$  represents a hydrogen atom, and  $\text{R}_3$  represents a hydrogen atom.

AMENDMENT

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4. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a methyl group.

5. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom.

6. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a methyl group.

7. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents, a hydrogen atom, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom.

8. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a methyl group.

9. (amended) The polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin of claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydroxyl group, and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom.--